

*What made you interested in joining the commission?*

Knew several other blind folks who were on COD, knew Joe Medeiros (former SCPD Commissioner), not well, but was friends with a friend of his. Thought it would be a good thing to do to give back to the community. There is no blind representation on the commission now.

*Do you have lived experience of being a person with a disability?*

Yes, a lifetime. Was born prematurely and blind at birth.

*What are two major accessibility concerns you have in the city of Somerville?*

One is mobility around the city; we run up against all kinds of obstacles like cones in the middle of the street, sidewalks that are all chewed up. Sidewalks are also skating rinks in the winter. Unshoveled bus stops.

The other is getting material in a format we can use, such as Braille.

*What other ways are you engaged in the community? (Somerville, disability)*

Was until COVID a member of the Somerville Community Chorus and was a member of Moonlighters. Is a senior group that got together at the Senior Center and sings.

*What skills would you like to bring to the group?*

Can communicate well. Bring the perspective of a totally blind person.

*Do you have interest and availability to serve on sub-committees/workgroups as the commission works to become more empowered in the city?*

Yes.